

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 - 22. (Canceled)

23. (Currently Amended) A sensing device for detecting an analyte in a fluid, said device comprising:

a first sensor element having a first sensor array for producing a response in the presence of said analyte;

a second sensing element having a second sensor array for referencing said system;

a computer coupled to said first and said second sensing elements having a resident algorithm,

wherein said first sensing element is physically located distinctly from said second element, and

wherein said second sensing element has attached thereto a passivation layer that prevents the analyte from contacting said second sensing element or slows the analyte's contact with said second sensing element.

24.-25. (Canceled).

26. (Previously Presented) The sensing device according to claim 23, wherein said passivation layer comprises a material that is a member selected from the group consisting of SiO₂ and SiO₂ based films.

27. (Original) The sensing device according to claim 26, wherein said SiO₂ based film is a member selected from the group consisting of thermal oxides, silane, SiH₄, tetraethoxysilane, Si(OC₂H₅)₄, silicate glasses, and spin on glass.

28. (Previously Presented) The sensing device according to claim 23, wherein said first sensing element is in a first sample chamber and said second sensing element is in a second sample chamber.

29. (Previously Presented) The sensing device according to claim 23, wherein said second sensing element has attached thereto a porous membrane layer.

30. (Original) The sensing device according to claim 29, wherein said porous membrane layer limits diffusion of said analyte.

31. (Previously Presented) The sensing device according to claim 23, wherein said second sensing element is a reference element and sensing element is temperature controlled.

32. - 35 (Canceled).

36. (Previously Presented) The sensing device according to claim 23, wherein said first sensing element does not have a passivation layer attached thereto.

37. (New) The sensing device according to claim 23, wherein said passivation layer prevents the analyte from contacting said second sensing element.

38. (New) The sensing device according to claim 23, wherein said passivation layer slows the analyte's contact with said second sensing element.